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LETTER DATED 22 AUGUST 1996 FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

The members of the Security Council have asked me to write to you regarding the situation in Afghanistan. The members of the Council remain deeply concerned about the ongoing civil war in Afghanistan, its effects on the region and particularly the suffering of the civilian population. They express their strong view that the warring parties should renounce the use of force and settle their differences by peaceful means, through negotiations.

The members of the Security Council are convinced that the main responsibility for finding a political solution to the conflict lies with the parties and that all States must refrain from interference.

The members of the Security Council reiterate their full support for the important work of the United Nations Special Mission to Afghanistan, headed by Mr. Norbert Holl. They hope that this work will intensify further and will bring new results in promoting the peace process. They would appreciate your keeping the Council informed about ongoing developments, both on the ground and in United Nations efforts, and they look forward to being briefed by Under-Secretary-General Marrack Goulding upon his return from the region. The members of the Security Council would also welcome a briefing by Mr. Holl when he comes to New York.

The members of the Security Council are convinced that the United Nations must continue to play a central role in international efforts towards a peaceful resolution of the Afghan conflict. They take note of recent proposals to promote a peaceful settlement, including a proposal for an arms embargo, as contained in the letter of 23 July 1996 from the President of Uzbekistan to the President of the Security Council (S/1996/607, annex). The members of the Security Council have started to discuss these proposals, taking into account all aspects of the situation in Afghanistan. They will remain seized of the matter and would hope that Under-Secretary-General Goulding and Mr. Holl, on the

basis of their consultations with the Afghan parties and the Governments of neighbouring States, will be able to make important contributions to the deliberations of the members of the Security Council.

(Signed) Tono EITEL
President of the Security Council